

The Desert Whispers

from Johnson Valley



VOL. 2, NO. 1

THE MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA

SEPT. 28, 1968

STEAK FRY COMING UP

The annual steak fry of the Desert Ears CB Club will be held Oct. 19 at Cole's Sunny Acres.

Ancel and Pearl Cole will again open their home for the event. The public is invited.

The steak dinner is \$1.75. Hamburgers will be available on a \$1 dinner. Salad and dessert are included on the menu.

Guests should bring their own service.

Reservations should be made by Oct. 16 with the Coles, Star Route 2, Box 750, Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284.

Burt Campbell is president of the organization.

*

DESERT EARS MEET

The regular meeting of the Desert Ears CB Club is scheduled for Oct. 13, in Landers.

A pot luck at noon will precede the business session.

*

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Johnson Valley Search and Rescue Group meets at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Chisel Inn.

No business was conducted at the September meeting because of lack of a quorum.

*

DIME A DIP ON OCT. 5

The public is invited to a dime-a-dip beginning at 5:30 p.m., Oct. 5, in the Johnson Valley Improvement Association community building.

The dinner will precede the regular association meeting, but those not wishing to remain for the meeting are welcome to the dime-a-dip.

The business meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Visitors are always welcome, according to Alex Chernoff, president of the JVIA.

Purpose is to get acquainted, as well as to raise funds for the association. The aim of the organization is to promote orderly growth in Johnson Valley. Items of general interest may be introduced at any time.

A second fund raising event is planned prior to the December meeting. Scheduled is a bazaar, when gift items will be sold. Members are asked to contribute hand-made or other new items for the sale.

A continuous rummage sale is conducted in the community building when used items are offered. Donations are always welcome.

J.V.I. ASSOCIATION MEETS SATURDAY

The Johnson Valley Improvement Assn. meets at 8 p.m. Oct. 5, in the community building on Larrea Road.

A dime-a-dip will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the meeting. The public is welcome.

Telephones were the main topic for discussion at the September meeting.

Speakers were Ralph Dutro, division manager for General Telephone, and E. C. Kropf, exchange manager.

General Telephone has applied for the franchise to serve Johnson Valley. The Public Utilities Commission has asked the phone company to show that an economical service can be provided.

This is contingent on a sufficient number of bona fide applications, according to the discussion.

Applications, including the legal description of property, should be filed with Kropf at the Yucca Valley office.

The phone company provides service for the first 1,000 feet, with the user paying \$10 a hundred feet thereafter. All users on one line share the footage cost. Those coming in on the route in the next year share the cost, with a rebate to the original users. At the end of three years there is no charge to those adjacent to the route.

"It's tough on the pioneers," Kropf pointed out.

A preliminary survey was made for feeder lines, but is probably obsolete now, it was stated.

In other business members approved filing of the application with the state for change of name from Grandview to Johnson Valley Improvement Assn.

The speakers were introduced by Alex Chernoff, association president.

NO BOARD MEET

There will be no meeting of the board of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association this month, it was announced by the president.

Board members will be busy preparing for the dime-a-dip prior to the regular business meeting.

PART FIVE ON WATER APPEARS ON PAGE FOUR IN THIS ISSUE OF DESERT WHISPERS

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NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

by Aileen De Victoria

Welcome to new permanent residents, the Burketts, Al, Bernice and Monique. Their neighbors are the La Fons, Russus, Lamperts and Shehorns. Monique is a student at Apple Valley Junior High School.

*

Sad to report that the Short cabin in the Grandview area burned to the ground. Both Yucca Valley and Lucerne Valley Fire Departments responded, but it's a long haul. No one was home when the blaze started and the cause was not immediately determined.

*

The repairs on Old Woman Springs Road certainly make for safer and more pleasant driving.

*

Ten additions to the Dumond family. Corina, a German shepherd, has ten pups, eight of which resemble Cockey, and the other two look like mama. Better put in your bid right away.

*

Daughter Jody is keeping out of mischief taking care of her pets. Both her dogs, Serina and Bridget are increasing the population this month, with eight new arrivals already.

*

Don't forget the annual steak fry sponsored by the Desert Ears, to be held at the Coles' in October. Get your reservations in right away.

*

Bea Roush and Esther Place have returned from visiting friends in Mexicali and Calexico. Bea said the hospitality was "out of this world."

*

We are saddened to hear of the passing of a dear friend, Walt Gustavson. Walt came to the desert about three years ago and lived with Leo Boaz before moving to Landers. Walt is buried next to his wife in Forest Lawn.

*

Mervin Sharp was rushed to St. Mary's Hospital on the 15th, suffering from a heart attack. He will be there for some time, according to the report.

*

Dan Hibbard underwent an eye operation and we hear he is coming along nicely.

THE DESERT WHISPERS is published the last Saturday of each month in Timico Acres, Johnson Valley, California. Subscription rate is \$2 a year for 12 issues. Mailing address Star Route 2, Box 804,

Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284.

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A man may fail many times, but he isn't
a failure until he begins to blame
somebody else.

-L. F. McCollum

MOBILE LIBRARY DISCUSSED

Marie Stanley and Ruby Piner represented Johnson Valley at the Lander's Chamber of Commerce luncheon this month. Topic discussed was the possibility of a mobile library to serve the Landers and Johnson Valley areas.

Speakers included Mrs. Dorothy Travers, librarian for San Bernardino County, at the meeting held at the Circle D.

According to the discussion, there is not yet sufficient population to warrant the service.

SHOUTS AND WHISPERS

Guests of the A.M. Wallers were their daughter Patsy, and sons, Rollie and Jackie. Jackie flew out to the valley and while here visited the Jarvis air strip and the Estes' new landing facility.

*

Marie Stanley is in Long Beach visiting her daughter, Audrey Brown.

*

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bruce were Hazel and Whitey Sexton, from El Monte. They decided they enjoy the desert so much that they purchased a piece of property during their visit.

*

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Long and children, Susan, Sandra and Billy, surprised Mrs. Long's parents, the Piners, with a visit over the holidays.

*

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ross, and their daughter, Mrs. Marge Gordon, spent a week at their cabin.

*

Mrs. Harold Paden entertained quite a houseful of guests.

*

Valley Vista Airstrip is popular with flyers. Recent fly-ins were Bill Carey, and Garnett Collins of the West Covina Police Department.

Also Elmer Guillermo, of Guatemala, and Art Dodd, and their wives, who are sisters. Dodd's parents have a cabin in Johnson Valley. Art was the first flyer to land on the Valley strip when Dan Jarvis completed it about five years ago.

Jim Stamper also visited the field to check it out and see if it will accommodate his glider. He is from Newport Beach, and flies a Schweizer. Jim found that the field will be adequate.

The sagebrush smells of lusty sage,
The raging winds proclaim their rage,
The lowing herds broadcast their low,
The western plains are a go-go.

-T.B.Thomson

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Box 755, Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284.

CHURCH SERVICES

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Mesa Road, Lucerne Valley

Sunday Masses at 8 and 11 a.m.
Rev. Patrick J. Scanlan, Pastor.

LANDERS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Off Old Woman Springs Road at the
New Dixie Mine Road in Landers.

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	11 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:30 p.m.
Hour-of-Power	Wednesdays 7 p.m.

MORE FLYERS

Allen Fox landed his Cessna "150" on Estes air strip on Sept. 7. He and his passenger taxied down to Old Woman Springs Road for take-off.

WATER
(Part V)

An overflow crowd attended the open meeting on the proposed water district sponsored by the Bighorn Rural Water Association on Sept. 14 in Landers. The proposed district provides for a water system serving from user to user. Anyone not wanting water is excluded and need not be concerned.

Property owners are signing up in sufficient numbers that the project has a good chance of success. Herb Chaption, engineer for the association, has begun plotting the locations of the properties to be served.

The initial fee is \$25 for each property to be served, and will apply to the total cost of installation of the system, which is not to exceed \$300 per parcel of land, according to the board of directors.

An application will be submitted to the Farm Home Administration for a 40-year loan. The FHA makes loans of up to 90 per cent of the cost of a water district, at not more than 5 per cent interest.

The user will repay the loan and pay a minimum water rate for his water. Property will not be taxed for the district, nor can any liens be placed on the property.

Owners of vacant property may sign up for the service, and will pay the minimum rate whether or not they use the water. Those who come into the district at a later date on an individual basis will pay a higher installation cost, depending on the distance of the property from the nearest water main. Whether the added cost would offset the water charge must be determined on an individual basis, depending on how soon the property is developed and the distance from the existing line at the time.

Applications and the initial commitment of \$25 may be sent to the Bighorn Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 3121, Landers, Calif., 92284. The legal description of the property must be included.

Members of the steering committee who have spearheaded the move are headed by Walter Remy, of Johnson Valley, as president. Others are Carl Brian, vice-president; William Gribble, parliamentarian; and members of the board of directors, Alex Chernoff, Max Epley, J. D. McLane, Glenn Fogg, Al Smith.

Harold Drake is treasurer; Vola Gribble, secretary; and George Bruen, corresponding secretary.

Section workers in Johnson Valley are Carl Holcomb, Elmer Jacobs, William Piner, Martha Coutant and Lillian Sweeney.

If the FHA loan is approved and work proceeds, participating members will elect a board of directors to operate the system, determine water rates, and process new applications. The district will serve Landers, Homestead and Johnson Valleys.

Johnson Valley property owners previously contributed funds for a preliminary survey for a water district. The survey was completed and has been turned over to the existing steering committee to prevent duplication of work.

Information now being compiled includes number and location of parcels to be served; location, size, type of water distribution lines; storage and treatment facilities required; approximate total cost; average member cost; and monthly rate. The costs will be determined by the number of benefit users.

Board members are putting in many hours on the project, without pay, and have done an outstanding job, President Remy stated. Wives are also devoting time to help speed up the work. Mrs. Remy has opened her home for most of the meetings of the board.

Section workers in Landers include Opal Hamman, Carl Dugger, Mrs. Parnell, Hazel Galloupe, Harold Hawes, Betty Miller, Bill Pullen, Jim Trainer, Bob Halliday and Mrs. Glenn Fogg.

The proposed district calls for purchase of existing wells or drilling new wells. It is not contingent on Feather River water. Northern water can be distributed only through an existing water system, in any event, according to previous reports.

Although no closing date for making application has been announced, it is advisable for those wishing water to sign up as soon as possible. Plans will be submitted to the FHA at the discretion of the water board, when it appears that a sufficient number of users have applied.

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